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## **CAPITAL REGION TO HOST PREMIER SHOWCASE ON AGING IN MAY 2012**

*Innovations in Aging 2012 will highlight a new approach to aging, dynamic technology, and more*

National Harbor, MD (February 2, 2012) – A first of its kind, regional conference on aging issues – aimed at older adults, Baby Boomers, caregivers of all ages, and professionals who manage their care – will take place between May 3-5, 2012 at The Gaylord National Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. This event, called **Innovations in Aging 2012**, will feature professional training sessions, an expo, a job fair, and a 2K Kidney Walk for professional and consumer audiences. The goal of Innovations in Aging 2012 is to showcase new directions for aging policy, programs, and services that promote healthy community living for a lifetime. Highlights will include new technologies and innovative approaches to planning for the future and preparing to age well in the community.

"The region must prepare for the Silver Tsunami of Baby Boomers coming our way," declared Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley. "This type of Expo helps educate and focus everyone's attention on the issues, needs, and technology that will drive policy-making and personal decisions for years to come."

The Expo was conceived to be the premier event for seniors and those who take care of them. Akin to an auto show, Innovations in Aging 2012 will feature the latest technology designed to make life a little easier, free screenings, cooking and fitness demonstrations, music, educational sessions, and more.

"Longevity is the greatest phenomenon of our time," according to Gloria Lawlah, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging. "Every day, 10,000 Baby Boomers turn 65. This will continue for 20 years."

Innovations in Aging 2012 is being co-convened by the Virginia Department for the Aging, the District of Columbia Office on Aging, and the Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA), which is acting as this year's host agency. This is the first large-scale regional collaboration centered on aging issues. Media partners for the Expo include W\*USA 9, from the Washington, DC viewing area, and the Beacon Newspapers, Inc. Planning partners include AARP and the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), and the charitable partner is the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region.

A new website ([www.InnovationsinAging2012.com](http://www.InnovationsinAging2012.com)) and Facebook page (Innovations in Aging 2012) have been created for the Expo to provide information for anyone interested in participating, including a downloadable Call for Sessions and Vendor Information Packets. Any questions or needs for additional information may be referred to the Maryland Department of Aging at (410)767-1100.

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